

Board of Health Meeting – December 11, 2019
Community Health Division, Lowell Health Department

Community Health Coordinator (CHC)
Kate Elkins

Healthy Living in Lowell

- The CHC produced a November episode of Healthy Living in Lowell on Diabetes Awareness. The show featured the Judy Pentedemos from Lowell General's Endocrine and Diabetes Center and discussed both type-1 and type-2 diabetes treatment, prevention, and more.
- The December episode will focus on the newly released Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment.

Access to Equitable Physical Activity

- The City of Lowell was awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation to establish more equitable opportunities for physical activity in Lowell over a three-year period.
- South Common has been restriped for Pickleball.
- The walking routes project, now named, "Healthy Walking Trails" is getting underway with buy-in from the Department of Planning and Development and the Lowell Housing Authority among other partners. Initial meeting is scheduled for Dec 5.

Employee Health and Wellness

- The CHC is working with the city's health and wellness committee to plan for the 2020 calendar year of activities.

Vision 2020 Grant

- The Health Department was awarded funding from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance in October to implement a new vision program within the School Health Unit. This grant will assist with better screening equipment for our youngest children and an enhanced vision referral system. The CHC wrote the grant and is now assisting the School Health Unit with some of the grant objectives.

Spacers for Kids Project

- The Greater Lowell Health Alliance awarded the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) with grant funds to launch a new initiative titled, Asthma Spacers for School Kids. This program aims to provide free spacers to school-aged children with a known asthma diagnosis in the Greater Lowell region.
- The Lowell Health Department will assist the GLCF in distributing these important spacer devices during the 2019-2020 school year to school-aged children in Lowell and the CHC is assisting the School Health Unit with this effort.

Additional Notes

- The CHC is assisting the Substance Abuse Prevention Division with work on the Partnerships for Success Grant media campaigns.